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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable NORM COLEMAN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Douglas John Waite, CDR, CHC, USN, who is Deputy Chaplain of the U.S. Coast Guard.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Our God, thank You for being with us today and every day. Please draw near to us here now in the United States Senate as our Senators labor to accomplish tasks that will benefit Your people the world over.

Lord, You have placed each and every Senator in their positions for this time in our Nation's and the world's history. Impress upon them altogether how You have handpicked them for the affairs at hand. May they seek Your guidance and direction in every discussion, deliberation and vote. Grant them the light of Your presence that leads nearer to the kingdom You are building.

Thank You for all those who have gone before us. May we in this generation continue to pass on the legacy of exceptional leadership our country's ancestors left to us. We ask these things boldly in Your powerful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable NORM COLEMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS.)

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC., April 11, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable NORM COLEMAN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. COLEMAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 10 a.m., with the time equally divided between the Senator from Texas and the Democratic leader or their designees.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic whip is recognized.

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, one of the things we kicked around late yesterday was whether or not on this side we would agree to allow Deborah Cook to be voted on prior to Jeffrey Sutton. The answer is yes. I have spoken to the necessary parties—the majority leader, Senator LEAHY—and we would be agreeable to have Cook be voted on at

the time previously scheduled for Sutton. We would agree to do Sutton the following week under the same terms and conditions we had for him. That will be the Monday and Tuesday we get back. I have also spoken with Senator HARKIN, who has concerns about Sutton and wanted considerable time to speak on that. He also agreed. That offer is out there if the majority wants to accept it.

I also announce we have scheduled today at 10:30 the conference on the supplemental, so Members should know we are finally going to go to conference on that and hopefully complete that some time today.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, Senator FRIST, I announce the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 10 a.m. Following morning business, the Senate may begin consideration of the budget resolution conference report which passed the House early this morning. In addition to the budget conference report, the Senate will complete action on the supplemental appropriations conference report when it becomes available, and the Senate may consider S. 196, the digital technology bill.

The majority leader wishes me to say we have a lot of work to get done prior to adjourning for the Easter recess. I inform my colleagues, therefore, that votes are possible throughout the day and Senators should make plans to be here into the evening.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I apologize to the Senator from Texas; I did not know she was acting as the majority leader and I would not have sought recognition. I apologize to the Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I thank the Senator. I understood that.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Mr. President, it is my intention to give a very brief tribute and then ask Senator HAGEL to manage the time on our side. I see Senator LINCOLN is here and I am sure she will manage time for the Democrats for our daily tribute to the troops.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, as I have said before, every day our troops have been in the field the Senate has opened with a tribute to them. We have had Members from both sides, from many States, talk about their own Members and colleagues. We have talked about different groups in the field. I begin today giving a tribute to a group of Navy reservists from Texas who are making history in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The unit is the Strike Fighter Squadron that hails from the Joint Reserve base at Fort Worth. As we speak, the members of this outstanding unit are flying jet fighters in combat against Saddam Hussein's evil regime. They are best known by their nickname the "Hunters."

When President Bush ordered the Hunters to active duty last October, this distinguished squadron joined the crew of the aircraft carrier USS *Theodore Roosevelt* for duty in the Persian Gulf—the first time since the Korean War that an entire Naval Air Reserve squadron has deployed aboard an aircraft carrier.

Since then, the Hunters have exceeded all of the Navy's requirements. The 12 Hornets that comprise the squadron have flown 1,500 sorties over Iraq. The air crews have made more than 500 landings aboard the *Theodore Roosevelt* at night and nearly twice that number during the day.

But it takes more than just remarkable statistics to truly tell how well the Hunters are serving our Nation. You can hear the pride in their voices. One crew member described the personal sacrifices his comrades were making when he said, "Some of us are taking pay cuts of \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year to be out here and make this happen. We're happy to be a part of this ship and this air wing, and we're ready to do our job." Many of the pilots left their jobs as civilian airline pilots to fight for our country.

These brave Naval reservists also are facing what many feel is the worst part of a deployment: being away from family. That means missing birthdays, anniversaries, and other important family obligations that are gone forever. Yet they are undaunted. One proud member said, "We're leaving our jobs and our families behind until this mobilization is done. Several members of the squadron are also geographic bachelors who don't live in Fort Worth, which means that they'll still be away from their loved ones after we've come back to base."

The feeling among members of the squadron is that each volunteered to

serve in the operation they describe as "America's Big Stick." One officer pointed out, "If our country needs us, we're going to step up, because this job is about something that's bigger than all of us."

Mr. President, with volunteers like the Hunters, this operation and the future of our national security is in good hands. We owe them and their families a debt we never can repay.

I yield to the Senator from Nebraska. Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, the world has been watching images from Iraq, of the Iraqi people celebrating the end of a brutal tyranny, and of the American soldiers who have given the Iraqi people hope for a new beginning.

Over the past 3 weeks, the men and women of America's Armed Forces have shown a degree of precision and professionalism unprecedented in military history. Their commitment to their country builds on the expectations, traditions and character of those who have gone before them. It builds on the traditions of over two centuries of American courage and sense of honor, built by people such as DAN INOUE, Bob Dole, CHARLIE RANGEL, JOHN MCCAIN and millions of other American veterans.

The end of Saddam's regime does not end our commitment in Iraq. It is only the beginning. America's soldiers will continue to face great risks in Iraq. Lives will continue to be lost.

Restoring order, peace-keeping, and rebuilding in Iraq are the tasks ahead, and our men and women in uniform will be asked to risk their lives to meet these challenges, as they have in bringing an end to Saddam Hussien's tyranny.

Among the many brave men and women who have sacrificed in Iraq, I would like to acknowledge the contributions and sacrifices of those men and women in uniform from my State of Nebraska.

Thousands of Nebraskans are on active duty in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. Their stories are the stories of America's courage, achievement, and sacrifice in Iraq.

On Monday, Army LTC Mike Presnell phoned his mother in Grand Island, NE. He placed the call on a reporter's phone from the gold-plated bathroom in one of Saddam Hussien's Baghdad palaces, now under coalition control.

Colonel Presnell told his mother about his historic experience and how proud he was of his colleagues.

Nearly 60 years after the first American landed at Omaha Beach, a courageous Omahan landed the first coalition aircraft at Baghdad International Airport.

Piloting an Apache helicopter disabled by enemy gunfire unable to radio for help, CWO 4 Greg Inman, Of Omaha, NEB, touched down shortly after U.S. forces staked claim to the airport. Warrant Officer Inman's landing was the standard for the courageous service that we have come to expect from our forces in Iraq.

CPT Travis Ford, a 30-year-old Marine from Ogallala, NE, lost his life in service to his country. Captain Ford was killed on April 4 when his Cobra helicopter crashed during combat operations near Ali Aziziyah, Iraq. He leaves behind a wife and 2-year-old daughter. He was, in the words of his father-in-law, a "Marine's Marine."

I spoke to his mother and wife yesterday. His mother, Josie Ford said, "Senator, Travis did something very important for his country. I'm proud of him." Mrs. Ford, we're all proud of him.

Our military men and women are the Nation's quiet heroes, for there is no glory in war.

Behind headlines and beyond breaking news, there is the human struggle and the human tragedy. Lives are risked and lost.

The experience of war reinforces the desire for peace. General Douglas MacArthur once said:

The soldier above all other people prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.

Our sacrifices in Iraq, we pray, will make a better and more secure life for the people of America, Iraq and the world.

For their service, bravery and sacrifice, in this noble cause of defending freedom and making a better world, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing—in honoring—the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. They have always been America's quiet heroes. Upon their sacrifice and courage we are inspired to build a more noble and just world.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I thank all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for coming down and being a part of what we have to do here in the Senate. It is incredibly important that we pay tribute to our troops. We see much progress over recent days in the conflict in Iraq, in our efforts to topple a totalitarian regime that has been incredibly harsh on its people. The progress we have seen is incredible, and it is due to the unbelievable professionalism and training of the service men and women in the Armed Forces of the United States. They have done an incredible job. They have had the best technology. We have had the best individuals, professionally trained, out there making an enormous difference.

I think all you have to do is look at what we have done in Baghdad on the Iraqi regime's strategic sites, where we have tried so diligently and our forces have been so successful in minimizing what has happened to the civilians in Iraq. We have also seen the joy on the faces of the Iraqi people as they have seen the liberation from a regime that has been so daunting to them.

I come from a rural State. It is most important, certainly when you live out